

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the production of cast steel strip (B), ~~wherein~~, in a continuous procedure[[,]] comprises casting a steel melt ~~is cast~~ into a casting gap (4), ~~the~~ having longitudinal sides of which are formed by walls that move during the casting process, to form the steel strip [[(B)]], and holding the steel melt, which is present above the casting gap [[(4)]] in a melt pool [[(6)]], ~~is held~~ under an atmosphere [[(A)]] containing nitrogen and hydrogen, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is greater than 0 mol % to 10 mol %, and the Cr, Mo, Nb, Si, Ti, Ni, Mn, C or N contents of the cast steel melt, which are selectively present in each case for adjusting the characteristics of the steel strip [[(B)]], are in each case selected in such a way that for the ratio Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq} formed from the Cr equivalent Cr_{eq} and the Ni equivalent Ni_{eq} , the following applies:

$$Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq} \geq 1.7,$$

wherein $Cr_{eq} = \%Cr + 1.37 \%Mo + 2 \%Nb + 1.5 \%Si + 3 \%Ti$,
 $Ni_{eq} = \%Ni + 0.31 \%Mn + 22 \%C + 14 \%N + \%Cu$,
 $\%Cr$ = respective Cr content,
 $\%Mo$ = respective Mo content,
 $\%Nb$ = respective Nb content,
 $\%Si$ = respective Si content,
 $\%Ti$ = respective Ti content,
 $\%Ni$ = respective Ni content,
 $\%Mn$ = respective Mn content,
 $\%C$ = respective C content,
 $\%N$ = respective N content.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~wherein~~ characterised in that the casting gap $[(4)]$ is formed between two casting rollers $[(2, 3)]$, which rotate in opposite directions, are cooled during the casting operation and delimit the longitudinal sides of the casting gap $[(4)]$.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1 ~~either one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the hydrogen content of the atmosphere $[(A)]$ is at least 0.5 mol %.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the hydrogen content of the atmosphere $[(A)]$ is no greater than 7.5 mol %.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the atmosphere $[(A)]$ additionally contains a noble gas.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to ~~Claim~~ claim 5, ~~wherein~~ characterised in that the noble gas is argon.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the nitrogen content of the atmosphere $[(A)]$ is at least 30 mol %.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that for the ratio Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq} , the following applies: $Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq} \geq 1.8$.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Method The method according to ~~any one of Claims 2 to 8~~ claim 2, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the casting rollers (2, 3) have a stochastic unevenness distribution.